B.A.R.G. NEWS

The official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. (# 6953T)

CLUB ROOMS
BALLARAT AIRPORT
UNIT 31

P.O. BOX 1261
MAIL CENTRE
BALLARAT VIC 3354

Volume 25 Number 10

OCTOBER 2002

MEETING DATES

At Club Rooms 8pm start

October 25th.

HAMVENTION
Sun.27th Oct

November 29th.

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B.A.R.G.

HAMVENTION 2002

SUNDAY 27TH. OCTOBER
BALLARAT SHOWGROUNDS

SEE FOX-HUNTING REPORT INSIDE

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

Inc. # 6953T

OFFICE BEARERS – 2002 / 2003

COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	GORDON CORNELL	VK3FGC	HELEN	5339 2427
VICE PRESIDENT				
SECRETARY	TOM GEORGE	VK3DMK	ELAINE	5333 2770
TREASURER	BOB TERRILL	VK3BNC	BETTY	5339 5317
MEMBER'S REP.	DOUG RAPER	VK3VBA	VAL	5332 3565
MEMBER'S REP.	CHARLIE STEWART	VK3DCS	SHIRLEY	5331 7425
MEMBER'S REP.	IAN LLOYD	VK3HFK	DEBBIE	5331 1480
MEMBER'S REP.	STEVEN DICK	VK3MNA	MARY	5331 5526
MEMBER'S REP.	PETER DIPROSE	VK3KDP	MARION	5339 9928
MEMBER'S REP.				

OFFICERS

QSL MANAGER	DARYL QUIRK	VK3XDQ	WENDY	5476 2689
EDUCATION OFFICER	TOM GEORGE	VK3DMK	ELAINE	5333 2770
TECHNICAL OFFICER	BOB TERRILL	VK3BNC	BETTY	5339 5317
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	NORM D'ANGRI	[illegible]	VAL	5334 1613
NET CO-ORDINATOR	CLEM ALLAN	[illegible]	PAT	5348 7709
AWARDS MANAGER	REG CARTER	VK3CAZ	[illegible]	5341 7585
HISTORIAN/LIBRARIAN	DICK CURNOW	VK3LDC	MARY	5330 1927
EXAMINATION OFFICER	CHARLIE STEWART	VK3[illegible]	SHIRLEY	5331 7425
MEMBER REGISTRAR	NORM D'ANGRI	VK3LBA	VAL	5334 1613
PUBLICITY OFFICER	DOUG RAPER	[illegible]BA	VAL	5332 3565
PROPERTY OFFICER	JEFF PIGDON	VK3[illegible]AP	LYN	5332 7041
WICEN STATE CO-ORD.	GORDON CORNELL	VK3FGC	HELEN	5339 2427
HAMVENTION CO-ORD.	STEVEN DICK	VK3MNA	MARY	5331 5526
SCRAMBLE CO-ORD.	REG CARTER	VK3CAZ	SHELAGH	5341 7585
AMENITIES COMMITTEE	SHIRLEY STEWART	SWL	CHARLIE	5331 7425
	SHELAGH CARTER	SWL	REG	5341 7585
	BETTY TERRILL	XYL	BOB	5339 5317
	MARY CURNOW	VK3FMC	DICK	5330 1927
	PAT ALLAN	XYL	CLEM	5348 7709
	VALERIE SMITH	XYL	GEOFFREY	5345 8387

TO BE UPDATED

BARG REPEATERS

VK3RBA	VOICE	146.750 MHz	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	VOICE	147.100 MHz	Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	PACKET	144.750 MHz	Mt. Warrenheip
VK3RBU	VOICE	438.475 MHz	Mt. Hollowback.
VK3RMB	BEACON	432.535 MHz	Mt. Buninyong
VK3RBV	ATV	426.250 MHz	Ballarat

BARG LIFE MEMBERS

VK3CFB	JIM WRIGHT
VK3AXH	IAN MC.DONALD
VK3WN	KEVIN HUGHES
exVK3AQM	PHIL SEDDON

10M NET": Tuesday Nights 8 pm. 28.475 mHz

ACTIVITIES

CLUB NET: Thursday Nights at 8 pm. (8.30 pm during Daylight Saving.) Freq.: 3.610 MHz +/- QRM.
MEETINGS: General Meeting : Last Friday each month (except December) at 8.00 pm. at Club Rooms.
CLUB ROOMS : Ballarat Airport – Unit 31 – (Off Learmonth Road) Ballarat.
HAMVENTION : Last weekend in October (2002 – 27th October.) **FOXHUNTING:** 5/6th October
CONSTRUCTION DAYS : Saturday afternoons at clubrooms - 1 pm.
CORRESPONDENCE TO: The Secretary. BARG Inc.. BOX 1261 MAIL CENTRE. BALLARAT 3354
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES TO: Norm D'Angri (VK3LBA). 29 Lawrence St. Alfredton Vic. 3350
email: <nda@vic.australis.com.au>
B.A.R.G. HOMEPAGE: www.barg.org.au

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the first uttering from me as your new president. As I begin the new term there many new challenges for Amateur Radio and our Club.

In common with nearly all clubs, membership is a problem. The club can only succeed if we have a good membership. Over the past years our membership has fallen, with death of esteemed members and others who fail to renew. There are many amateurs in our area who are not members, so it is up to us to try to get them to join or rejoin.

The price of membership is not excessive and has not been increased for some years. The club has continuing expenses such as rent, power and heating of the club rooms so that the more members we have the less cost of these fall on members.

FOX HUNTING

After the very successful fox hunting weekend the committee has resolved to put to the club that we should start our own hunts. This will be put to the Club at our next meeting, so give it your thoughts now.

David VK3UR has put together a 70 cm & 2M portable Fox as a starter and it is hoped that we can start in a small way, build up our own gear and expertise as a worthwhile activity.

That's all for now.

73 Gordon VK3FGC

NEEDED FOR A NEWSLETTER

S	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	F	I	D	O	M	S	O
T	E	A	T	A	Y	O	Z	Q	U	C	P	H	T	W
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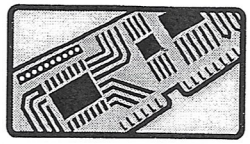
E	U	S	T	A	M	P	S	I	P	A	N	W	E	S
M	I	K	R	I	J	E	T	A	R	V	M	K	J	T
E	P	A	O	B	V	T	T	G	E	C	T	G	O	C
S	M	O	P	I	N	I	O	N	S	D	U	N	R	D
I	E	S	E	Z	E	T	T	R	A	K	P	I	P	M
T	N	T	R	N	O	I	U	C	B	L	N	T	T	G
R	T	S	C	H	O	O	P	M	A	A	I	N	N	S
E	C	E	P	N	M	N	D	S	T	B	M	I	P	H
V	M	U	S	U	Q	S	A	A	A	E	D	R	W	O
D	E	Q	H	S	M	M	T	V	D	L	I	P	C	Z
A	I	E	U	P	A	P	E	R	O	S	E	P	D	Z
X	T	R	A	V	E	L	S	F	J	X	M	S	C	S

ACTIVITIES
ADVERTISEMENTS
CIRCUITS
COMPETITIONS
DATA
DATABASE
EQUIPMENT
FOLDING
HUMOUR
INPUT
INVENTIONS
LABELS
MODIFICATIONS
OPINIONS
PAPER
PATIENCE
PHOTOGRAPHS
PRINTING
PROJECTS
REPORTS
REQUESTS
SALES
STAMPS
TIME
TRAVELS
UPDATES

TECH TALK



FROM REG. – VK3CAZ

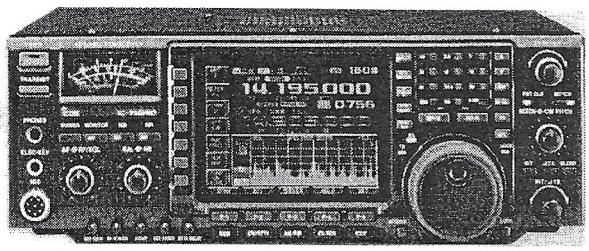
The British Army operating in Kosovo, as part of the NATO Forces there, have found that their radios are virtually useless in the hilly terrain. So much so that they had to resort to the use of the 'mobile phone' to pass tactical information to the patrols etc.
So a deal has been struck with Amateur Operators in the UK whereby they can operate on HF in the section allocated to the Services for HF communication around 5 MHz.
By applying for a 'variation of license conditions' they are able to operate in the 5MHz region, on Army specified frequencies and communicate with the Service operators.
The intent is for the Army to develop its NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Systems) gathering information on the difficulties and problems of short distance communication on HF in hilly areas.
In addition, it means that the British Government can save a bit of money getting the Amateur fraternity to do most of the signal strength plotting and propagation testing free of cost, which obviously appeals to a Government ! ! ! !
The frequencies involved, in MHz are as follows:
5.2585 - 5.2615 5.2785 – 5.2815 5.2885 – 5.2915 5.3985 – 5.4015 5.4035 – 5.4065

The Army stations will for some reason be working with an 'offset', however since they are concentrating on SHORT range with aerials intended for that purpose, it will probably be the Amateur Stations that will be heard here, since they are mainly using horizontal dipole / doublet aerials BUT using no more than 200 watts. As that is the old 60 metre broadcast band there is a good chance that they will be heard over here, so I feel I should mention that they will not be using RST for signal reports, but rather the SINPO values as used by commercial broadcasting stations for reporting. The SINPO code is listed in the Amateur Radio Callbook, but if you do not have a copy here it is :

S = Strength	1. Barely Audible.	2. Poor	3. Fair	4. Good	5. Excellent
I = Interference	1. Extreme	2. Severe	3. Moderate	4. Slight	5. Nil
N = Noise	1. Extreme	2. Severe	3. Moderate	4. Slight	5. Nil
P = Fading	1. Extreme	2. Severe	3. Moderate	4. Slight	5. Nil
O = Overall Rating	1. Unusable	2. Poor	3. Fair	4. Good	5. Excellent

So it comes out as a 5 figure signal report.
Try listening for them, as they were operational as from September.

73 from Reg VK3CAZ



FOR SALE

(From the Estate of Stan VK3SE)

ICOM IC756 Transceiver
HF & 6M with Scope.
$1950 - Contact David VK3YNB

HAMVENTION 2002

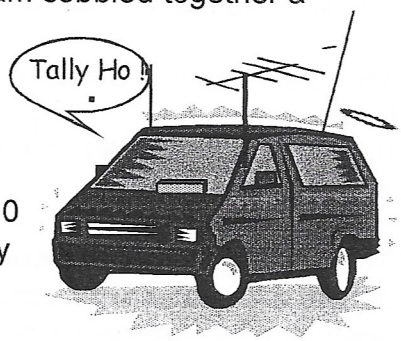
FOXHUNTING REPORT–SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER

FROM DAVID TILSON VK3UR

The club held its annual Foxhunt on Saturday, 5th October. After scouring the environs of Ballarat and the surrounding districts over the preceding 2 weekends the Foxes believed that they had an enjoyable set of hunts planned for the Hounds. The Foxes comprising Steve MNA, Ian AXH, Gordon FGC, Doug KAY, Ian HFK and David UR met on the Friday evening to run through the scenarios and finalise the preparations for the Saturday night's activities.

Although 5 teams of Hounds had registered, unfortunately only 2 teams comprising 10 people managed to make it to Ballarat on the day. Saturday night commenced at the club rooms with a social BBQ comprising Foxes and Hounds followed by a briefing of the rules to all concerned.

The Hounds vehicles were very well equipped including GPS equipped computer based mapping, automatic attenuators, preamplifiers, direction indicators, spotlights, DSP based receivers and even a little bit of room left over for humans... With all this technology on board what could possibly go wrong??? Well OK, the YDF team forgot to pack their 70cm antenna for the car – DOH!!! Time for some ingenuity and the team cobbled together a 70cm antenna, but how well would it work – nobody knew???



The first hunt commenced at 7:30PM on 70cm and the Foxes, Gordon and David, hid the transmitter along the disused railway line in Alfredton, behind some of the new housing estates. The YQN team found the Fox without too much trouble and after the 10 minute allotted time the YDF team were still searching without any joy.

The second hunt, on 2m, took the Hounds out into the forest at Hillscrest (near Scarsdale) about 20km to the west where Steve and Doug were hiding. Although both teams came from different directions they both arrived within a few minutes of each other.

The third hunt, on 2m, had the Hounds searching for the 2 Ians in the back of the Ballarat Goldfields. Having surveyed this site carefully the Foxes knew, or at least thought, that there was only one way in... Not so... Bruce from the YQN team ran nearly 2km in the pitch black, through the sewerage farm, to find the Fox to claim victory only seconds ahead of the YDF team. This was an amazing effort by Bruce although he smelled a bit for the rest of the night...

Hunt number 4, on 70cm, was a fairly short hunt and took the Hounds into the middle of the Canadian State Forest where Gordon and David sipped on coffee and watched / listened to the Blood on the Southern Cross show some 4km away. Once again the YDF team had problems with their temporary 70cm antenna but they managed to sort it out in readiness for the 5th hunt.

Another short hunt on 70cm saw Steve and Doug hiding along the railway line behind Xavier College. This time the YDF 70cm antenna worked fine as they claimed victory a few minutes ahead of the YQN team, even if both teams did go the long way to find the fox hahahaha.

The sixth hunt took the Hounds, on 2m, to Ian HFK's favourite fishing spot to the north near the water tanks. Access to this site was very difficult but both teams managed to find their way within 2 minutes of each other, much to Ian's annoyance.

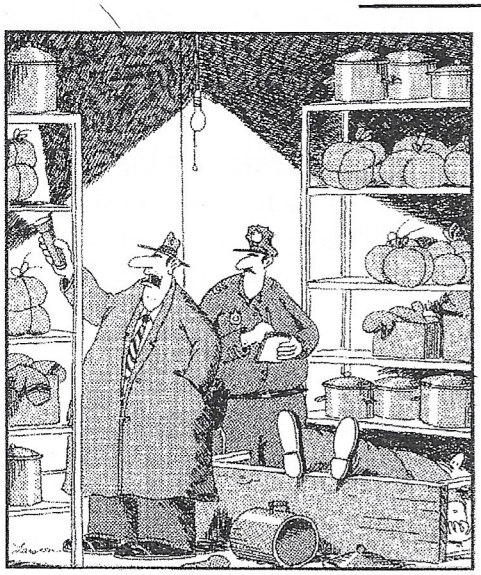
FOXHUNTING REPORT (CONT.)

Hunt number 7... Well it seemed a good idea at the time... Take the Hounds into the Creswick State Forest (north of the White Swan)... Sure they'd have to find their way around forest tracks in the middle of the night and besides we told the Hounds that they only need to travel on well made dirt roads... How hard could that be??? Gordon and David setup the Fox on 2m and waited and waited and then waited some more. After a while the Foxes received one of those "Houston, we have a problem" type calls on the RBA repeater. The YDF team had managed to get themselves pretty well bogged. At about the same time the YQN team arrived at the Foxes lair having come in from a totally unexpected direction that was full of hazards (little things called mine shafts) to claim victory on the hunt. Back to the YDF team... "Where are you?", "We don't know..." was the response... Fortunately the YQN team with their computer based mapping had recorded their track and we were able to back track to a little overgrown dirt track in the middle of a pine plantation that they had observed the YDF team taking. Talk about bogged and in the middle of nowhere!!! With 12 people we couldn't set their vehicle free. The 2 lans arrived with some rope and with 14 people and a 4WD we managed to extract the vehicle after about an hour and a half's effort. The time was now 1:30AM.

The final hunt for the evening had the Hounds searching for Steve and Doug on 2m, who had been patiently waiting during the preceding rescue. Their lair was set-up at the base of Black Hill and once again the 2 teams came in from quite different directions within seconds of each other.

The Foxes and Hounds met back at the club rooms at around 2:30AM for supper and a debrief of the evening's activities. A first aid kit, donated by Rural Ambulance Victoria, was presented by President Gordon to the winning YQN team and the Hounds expressed their appreciation to the Club and the Foxes for a very entertaining night, vowing to be back next year. Steve arranged for the Hounds to sleep at the club rooms overnight and returned early on Sunday morning to cook everyone breakfast.

Thanks to Bryan YNG, from Melbourne, for supplying some of the Fox transmitters and to Mary (Steve's wife) for organising the food and yummy slices that were devoured by all in attendance.



"Look here McGinnis— hundreds of bright copper kettles, warm woolen mittens, brown paper packages tied up with string .... Someone was after a few of this guy's favourite things."

WORDS FROM THE WISE

BEAUTY - IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEER-HOLDER

IF ITS NOT BROKE - LET ME TAKE A CRACK AT IT !

I LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME - BUT I AM CURRENTLY THREE WEEKS BEHIND !

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH ITS TIME TO UPGRADE

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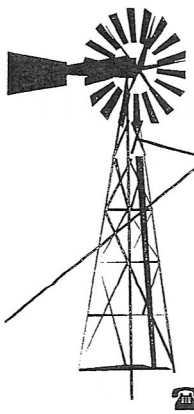

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500 ml spray

CARECLEAN PLUS Hand Cleaner
100 grm. Tubes

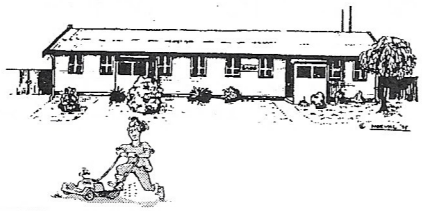
WINDSCREEN WASHER CONCENTRATE
500 ml.

ENGINE DEGREASER
400 grm. Aerosol and 1 ltr.Tins.

DWF for TIGHT NUTS.

73 Bill VK3PH.

MOWING ROSTER



MAY	John VK3CFH	Bon VK3WBB
JUNE	Steven VK3MNA	Ian VK3CIS
JULY	Bob VK3BNC	Ian VK3HFK
AUGUST	Geoffrey VK3ADB	Kevin VK3WN
SEPTEMBER	Gordon VK3FGC	Ian VK3AXH
OCTOBER	Jeff VK3PAP	John VK3CFH
NOVEMBER	Bob VK3WBB	Steven VK3MNA
DECEMBER	Bob VK3BNC	Ian VK3HFK
JANUARY	Geoffrey VK3ADB	Gordon VK3FGC
FEBRUARY	Ian VK3AXH	Bob VK3BNC

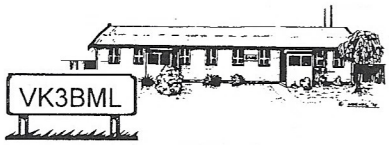
If you have any problems with the roster, motor mower or fuel, please contact Bob VK3BNC or Geoffrey VK3ADB.
Thanks for your help.

PLEASE NOTE

The content of this newsletter is dependent upon the contribution of articles from the members. If you have a story to tell or a project to share, please contact the editor at: 29 Lawrence St. Alfredton 3350 . (email: < nda@vic.australis.com.au >)
or hand to a Committee Member at the meetings.

CUT OFF DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IS NOW THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.

B.A.R.G.
The Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc.



A group of radio enthusiasts licensed to experiment with local and international radio communications on an amateur basis.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME.

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

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